

## PAULY Linda

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**From:** richard proulx <proulx79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2016 11:10 PM  
**To:** MILLER Keir C  
**Subject:** Springfield Urban Growth Boundary

Dear Mayor Lundberg, City Councilors, Lane County Commissioners, and Lane County Planning Commission.

My name is Richard Proulx. My family and I live at 2777 South M St. Springfield, Or 97477.

I came to the City Council meeting last Monday, 9/12/2016. In fact, I spoke at the meeting. The problem, is that with a week to organize, and only three minutes to respond to information that took Linda Pauly eight years to gather, I felt short changed in getting my information to you. Therefore I will try again through email.

Let me say, I appreciate what Linda is trying to accomplish. She has worked very hard at this for several years. I have received several letters from her over the years. In fact, I did submit a written response in 2010.

Unfortunately, I can't support her proposal for including the South 28th area into the urban growth boundary. Here is my reasoning why...

My family moved to this neighborhood in 1959, 57 years ago. It was a quiet, peaceful area with deer, eagles, and an abundance of other wildlife. We were a five minute walk to the Willamette river, which was like looking at a post card it was so pretty. Traffic was very limited. In part because of a gravel road that was/is very dusty in the summer and muddy with large pot holes in the winter. In part because the train blocks the road for extended periods of time multiple times a day. And in part because it is a dead end road.

There are about 14 families that live in our neighborhood. These families have lived here for many,many years. To the best of my knowledge, every family but two have lived here for 20 years or more. One of the two "newer" families move in after the owner died, the other because of a divorce.

In fact, this is an area people come to to settle permanently. Some of the people we have lost over the years include:

Denna, who lived on her ranch over 15 years

Jerry Bingham 20 plus years

Mr. Bales 25 plus years

Wes 20 plus years

Mac McNair and his wife 50 plus years

Virginia Schmidt 54 years

and Bob Saul over 90 years.

In the late 1980s Molly and Bill Reaves sold what is now the SUB well fields property to I believe the City of Springfield for one dollar. The only requirement was that the property never be developed. Because of the wells, some fencing and moderate gates were installed. We still had access to the river and walks through beautiful country.

In the early 2000s SUB invited all the homeowners to a barbecue on the well field property. They wanted to develop the water supply system by installing water filtration ponds. They (SUB) explained all the benefits of the new water system and how they were going to be great neighbors. I can tell you, they were anything but.

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Extensive fencing and large gates were installed (including a gate across public property at the end of South 26th St. that SUB now wants to acquire as vacated).

A large piece of our "heaven " had been taken away from us. We lost our access to the river. And if we were on the property, we were TOLD to get off, even when we were on an easement with permission. Large numbers of SUB vehicles and work trucks went past my home daily to work on their new water system. They were noisy (especially the diesels), creating substantial amounts of dust that coated our home, and caused our gravel road to erode at a much faster rate.

Within the last six to eight years, two of our neighbors passed, ( Jerry and Denna). SUB/City of Springfield purchased the property and immediately put up more fencing and gates. One of the fences runs along my property line about 10 feet from my home. They converted that six acre parcel zoned E25, exclusive farming, into an "industrial staging area". For weeks, SUB operated heavy equipment on this property leveling the land and building a road through it. Diesel machinery and backup beepers were going off at 6:30 in the morning!!! Remember, some of this was only feet from my house. The dust was ridiculous. I did ask that they not start quite so early, as my mother, who was living with us at the time, was still sleeping. We were accommodated by SUB moving the start of their day to 7:00am. This new property also meant more SUB vehicles coming and going tearing up the road.

So another portion of our community had been taken away and replaced with fences noise and dust. The properties we used to walk freely were disappearing.

Next came the Willamalane bike trail along the river. This project started in about 2012. For two summers, dump trucks full of dirt went by our home full, then leave empty. Our living room actually shook every time one went by. Conservatively, I would estimate 50 trucks going in , then out each day. More noise, more dust, more wear and tear on the road. And now we have concerns about the bridge that is getting all the use from the many large trucks. I don't believe it was built with this kind of traffic in mind.

A side note to the bike trail. SUB goes to all that work securing the well field property with fencing. Property that very few people know about. Then allows the bike trail to be built right next to the fence. It would be very easy for someone to cut the fence, do some kind of damage or , perish the thought, terroristic attack on the water system and get out. It's a curious decision.

Now there is a bike path along the creek that will connect with the Clearwater bike path. How is it we can spend millions of dollars on this bike path, including pouring concrete across South 28th connecting the paths, and there is no plans to deal with the gravel road for at least 20 years. Out of curiosity, when the bike path is completed, will the bikers have to stop for the road traffic, or will the people who have live here and used the road for decades have to stop?

As you can see, in the last 20 to 30 years our wonderful community is being squeezed out and our quality of life infringed upon. Available properties are consumed by SUB or City of Springfield as soon as they become available. Traffic, dust, noise, erosion seem to increase daily. Bike paths opening up our neighborhood to strangers who would have never known of it. I believe it is only a matter of time before the increase in traffic leads to crime that doesn't exist back here now.

Allowing our area to fall into the urban growth boundary and the possibility of even more traffic back here in the form of business would not be right. We have lived here happily for decades. Four generations of my family call this area home. We have hunted, fished lived and died here. We have reaped the benefits of living in this wonderful area. We have lived by the zoning laws even when we don't agree with them (which will be changed the minute the urban growth proposal goes through because it benefits the city)

I could go on, but I'm afraid I am rambling at this point. I don't want to be in the urban growth, nor do any of my neighbors. I pray you take our feelings under serious consideration when you make your decision.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Richard Proulx

